

# MRS. JOHN SHERWOOD ("M. E. W. S.") ON ENGAGEMENTS AND MARRIAGES.



"The lover gives his beloved an engagement ring and any amount of flowers. But it is not allowable to give her dresses or anything that can be worn."

**COURTSHIP** is one of those delicate affairs in human experience with which the outer world has little to do and to set rules for its conduct is absolutely impossible. No wise young man (or few foolish ones) will wear a girl with attention which she sees as disagreeable; and no well-bred girl will encourage a man unless she means to say yes, unless she is a coquette or one of Ouida's heroines, with whom we have nothing to do.

Nature and careful friends should guard the young girl as far as possible from the male flirt, who seeks merely the excitement of wooing a girl with no serious intention of marrying her. But the richest gardens are full of weeds, so we cannot but fear that there are some very bad growths in the gardens of society, of which the male flirt may be quoted as the most dangerous and obnoxious.

No man likes to be refused and no man needs a refusal. He can generally judge whether a girl likes him or not and whether he will be favorably heard.

## The Offer of Marriage.

In regard to the manner of the offer he must be the judge and he must ask her father or her mother before he demands her final answer. He must remember that he is a petitioner and not a bold. If the lady is his superior in fortune he must bear in mind that he is asking her to support him in life; he is in a very delicate position. If she is inferior in birth and fortune to himself he is asking her for her liberty, her obedience, her companionship in life; he should ask for all this with humility and gratitude.

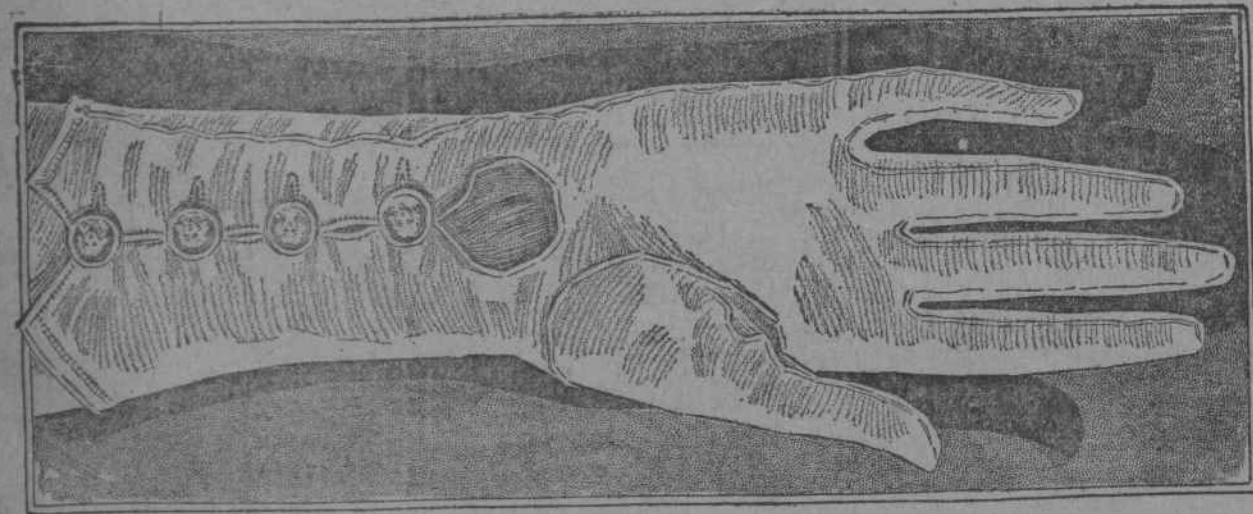


"He should be conformable to her tastes, even to giving up smoking if she requests it."

## A NOVELTY IN GLOVES.

**MINIATURES** for glove buttons—that is the latest fad of the fashionable woman. But it is only on her very best gloves that the miniature buttons are seen.

And such exquisite gloves as they are! They are made of the softest of cream color suede, and are bound with different



This Is the Fashionable New Glove, on Whose Buttons Miniature Portraits Are Painted.

elate shades of kid. The backs of the gloves are beautifully stitched in two contrasting shades of silk. The gloves come in a short, four-button length. Each button is a miniature framed in a tiny rim of gilt. Various miniatures are used. One pair of gloves will be decorated with the portraits of the beauties of the French Court. Another pair will show Princess Louise, whose picture is so famous for its beauty, and others will have portraits of the prominent women of her time.

If the young people are in every way equals he is again her debtor, for he is asking her for herself.

After he is accepted and they are affianced he must be tender, attentive, assiduous, unobtrusive. He must by no means act as if he were already a member of the family or venture on being unduly familiar. He can testify interest in all that concerns the welfare of the family to which he hopes to ally himself and he should lose no opportunity of rendering them any service which may lay in his power.

## After the Engagement.

All airs of mastery, above all, any display of jealousy or ill-temper should be avoided. Fortunately nature takes care of this generally, for all lovers wish to appear at their best; but lovers' quarrels should be avoided. They are as much to be deprecated as those of brothers and sisters and husbands and wives. Quarrels always impale mutual respect and diminish love. No lover should stand between a girl and her mother, nor urge his fiancée to do anything which her mother may disapprove of. This is a delicate part of a lover's duty. On the side of the woman there should be a great care as to flirting with other men. She should guard against caprice, and she should not appear too demonstrative; every approach toward familiarity should be discouraged. Reserve in courtship leads to happiness in marriage.

And all displays of devotion should be avoided in public. A man can show every



"Reserve in courtship leads to happiness in marriage. And all displays of devotion should be avoided in public. A man can show every conceivable attention to a girl and yet avoid committing the slightest offence against delicacy or good taste."

He should be conformable to her tastes, even to giving up smoking if she requests it, while she should be as neat as a violet.

## The Making of Presents.

The lover gives his beloved an engagement ring and any amount of flowers. But it is not allowable to give her dresses or anything that can be worn.

As a witty mother in New York remarked, "If the engagement should be broken, I should, in that case, have to send back a half-worn pair of slippers." There are many reasons against the giving of presents before marriage. In New York a few years ago a gentleman settled on the lady whom he intended to marry a very handsome house and lot. After a while she broke off the engagement but kept the house. He is now poor and sees his rival living in this very house.

This is, of course, a case of unusual infidelity on the part of the lady and unappealable meanness on the part of her husband, but it occurred.

In Boston a gentleman settled all his fortune upon his fiancée, much against the advice of his lawyer. She died in a few years, making a will and leaving all her money to her little daughter.



"A beautiful wedding near New York was made the scene of a pretty festivity as the bride and groom led the way out upon a perfect turf, and were followed by all the ushers and bridesmaids, who danced the Virginia reel under the trees. After that dancing became general."

## Answers by MRS. JOHN SHERWOOD, THE DISTINGUISHED SOCIETY LEADER, to Questions Asked by Sunday Journal Readers Who Want to Be Proper and Polite.

**Question.**—When I make a first call shall I wait to be asked to sit down, or shall I find a chair for myself?

**Answer.**—Find a chair for yourself, first seeing the lady seated.

**Q.**—In giving a dinner how much glass should be put at every one's plate?  
**A.**—Some ladies who have beautiful Carlsbad glass put a glass for champagne, one for claret, one for Hoch, one for Sauterne, one for ice water, one for Madeira and another for port or sherry. Eight, and even ten glasses often are used for very grand dinners, but this crowds the table, and the better plan is to have but four, allowing the servants to add the others as needed. This, of course, is to be determined by the wines offered.

**Q.**—Is it more proper to use a fork with the left hand?

**A.**—Yes, when necessary to steady the meat one is cutting. But in conveying food to the mouth it should always be in the right hand. Eat raw oysters with a small fork. The fork should be held daintily between the thumb and the fingers, not grasped as if it were a ball bat. One should eat slowly. Napoleon lost the battle of Leipzig by eating too fast.

**Q.**—How should a young lady enter a room?

**A.**—With simplicity and modesty, not like the hoyden of the old comedies. She should not be too violently confident, nor awkwardly bashful, nor too self-conscious.

**Q.**—How much music should I require at an evening party?

**A.**—Two ballads and one short instrumental piece are enough after dinner. If you give a concert get some musical friend to arrange it.

**Q.**—What sort of needlework should ladies work at in public?

**A.**—Always fancy work, or crochet, or knitting, unless in Lent, when working parties are in order and plain sewing for the poor is in fashion, or one may knit golf stockings, now so much worn.

**Q.**—Should young ladies play the piano during a thunder storm?

**A.**—In England and France it is considered impious to play or amuse one's self during a thunder storm. It is a remnant of an old Roman superstition.

**Q.**—In calling should a gentleman take up his overcoat, hat, umbrella and walking stick?

**A.**—No, it would be better to leave the coat and the umbrella in the hall. But if it is a morning call, and informal, there can be no impropriety in his carrying his umbrella, if it is neatly folded. If it is a Gamp, and also damp, he had better leave it in the hall. He always carries his hat.

The father is living still, and is obliged to appeal to his daughter for every cent of his own fortune, which she has to give him by form of law, so tightly it is tied up.

In the case of marriage settlements, when the lady has the fortune, it is well that her fortune be settled on herself. It is often as advantageous to the husband as to herself.

But in the far more common case, where the husband earns all the money, he should make some sort of settlement or provision for her, so that she may not have to ask for money, but that it may come to her as promptly as if it were a dividend.

## The Bride's Dresses.

The trousseau of a bride should be in accordance with her means, and it is preposterous for a woman who is to marry a poor man, and one who has limited means herself, to provide a showy, useless outfit. A young girl of fashion who was to marry

a clergyman told her mother that she wanted no Valenciennes trimmed underlinen. She only wanted what could be washed in the rectory kitchen. This was a sensible girl.

There can be nothing too splendid for a rich bride. "Costly your habit as your purse can buy," and every bride should try to provide good table and bed linen and the solid needs of a household. Bridal presents once consisted, and still do in Holland, of linen, silver and house furnishings.

It is the lady's privilege to name the day. Widows and elderly women should be married in bonnets; the bridegroom and his best man must be in evening suits, or in frock coats, according to the time of day. The neckties must be white four-in-hands or ascots for the day, or white cambric ties for the evening.

The bride's dress is always or should be white. If she wears a veil, in England and America the richest satins and velours silks are used for bridal dresses. In

France they are much simpler, a white glace silk corded with tulle or gauze, a long veil of white tulle, with a wreath of orange blossoms or white lilac or small white flowers. These French bridal dresses are very becoming; in our country rich brides wear point lace and diamonds.

## The Wedding.

The bridesmaids may be from two to twelve in number and wear colors and hats. Except at very large wedding breakfasts it is only customary to invite very intimate friends to the dejeuner, but to ask everybody to the church.

The ushers go first and early to the church, and arrange the last details. The bridesmaids, the bride's and groom's family go next and the bride follows with the father or the friend who gives her away. The "best man" arranges for fees and relieves his friend, the groom, of all trouble, holding his hat during the ceremony.

## REV. MR. WARD, ORGANGRINDER.

**FELIXSTOWE**, a small town in England, has been edified of late by the spectacle of a clergyman wandering about the streets playing secular tunes on a common, ordinary, every-day hand organ. His name is Ward, and he is a curate of the Church of England.

He is twenty-four years old, comes from the north of England and was ordained only last June, which may account in some degree for his musical outburst. Shortly

The bride stands on the left of the groom and removes her left glove. He takes the glove from his right hand, and it is not impossible that they both go to the altar gloves.

It is even the fashion for the bride to carry an ivory prayer book.

After receiving her friends, the bride retires to assume her travelling dress, which should be a handsome travelling gown or any street costume of velvet or cloth or silk, as she pleases. In this respect fashion changes every season.

It is very pretty to have a dance at a wedding, particularly if the wedding be in the country and the visitors can dance on a lawn. At a beautiful wedding near New York this was made the scene of a pretty festivity as the bride and groom led the way out upon a perfect turf and were followed by all the ushers and bridesmaids, who danced the Virginia reel under the trees. After that dancing became general, and the bride slipped away to assume her travelling dress. On her return she was greeted by the bridesmaids, who carried baskets of rose leaves and flowers on which she danced her way to a boat decked with flowers and flags and also a white swan at the prow, on which the happy pair were rowed over to a yacht to the music of Lohengrin.

We hear of weddings taking place on yachts and on the cars and in strange original places, but this is very unusual. The majority favor being married at home, where a floral altar can be arranged



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In one of the parlors. As for the luxury of flowers, it knows no limit. St. Thomas's Church was twice decked last year with a perfectly gorgeous display, and music of the most exquisite sort was hired. In all ages of the world a wedding feast has been in order, the brighter and more beautiful the better.

## Church Weddings.

In England there is a visit to the vestry, where the bridal register is signed, and formerly there were kisses and tears in this sacred retreat. Both are forbidden now and a church wedding permits no display of feeling. The bride quits the church on the arm of her husband and drives away in his carriage (in England). That is the only carriage which he is permitted to pay for.

In this country, when a young couple have no aspirations for etiquette, the groom is permitted to pay for what he and she please, but that is not considered the thing in society. Special licenses are not necessary in America.

The solemnization of marriage in a church by some high functionary is very dear to the Roman Catholics and to the Protestant Episcopalians, but if a Roman Catholic marries a Protestant the marriage must be performed at home. High mass is not permitted at a mixed marriage.

The fashion of one maid of honor instead of several bridesmaids has found great



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favor, and child bridesmaids are very pretty. This one maid of honor, generally a sister, stands near the bride at the altar and takes her glove and bouquet. The groom takes the hand of his bride from her father, who must stand near to hear the words, "Who giveth this woman to be married to this man?"

On the other hand taken—a terribly solemn one—hangs all law and order, the well-being of society, the safety of property, the legitimacy of children, the preservation of the commonwealth. Let no one enter into it carelessly.

## Wedding Festivities.

As the bridal party returns home, if they are to hold a reception, the usual form is that the guests be taken up to the bride by an usher. Then the mother of the bride is to be greeted. The usual form of serving refreshments in a city house is the buffet style; in a large, opulent country house little tables are in order. The festivities rarely last more than two hours. No rice should be thrown after the bride, as it frightens the horses, which should be very fine with wedding favors, and then the young people depart on the honeymoon, a term derived from the Germans, who drank mead or methelin for thirty days after the wedding. Their destination is a secret.

The bride cake is then cut up and given to the departing guests, packed in fancy boxes which bear nuptial mottoes or the monogram of the happy pair. There is a great deal of white satin ribbon used on these occasions, and favors, flowers and cake are often all given to the guests.

Evening weddings do not differ very much from day weddings excepting that the groom wears evening dress. Should there be dancing at an evening wedding the bride opens the ball with her first usher, while the groom takes the maid of honor or the first bridesmaid.

M. E. W. S.



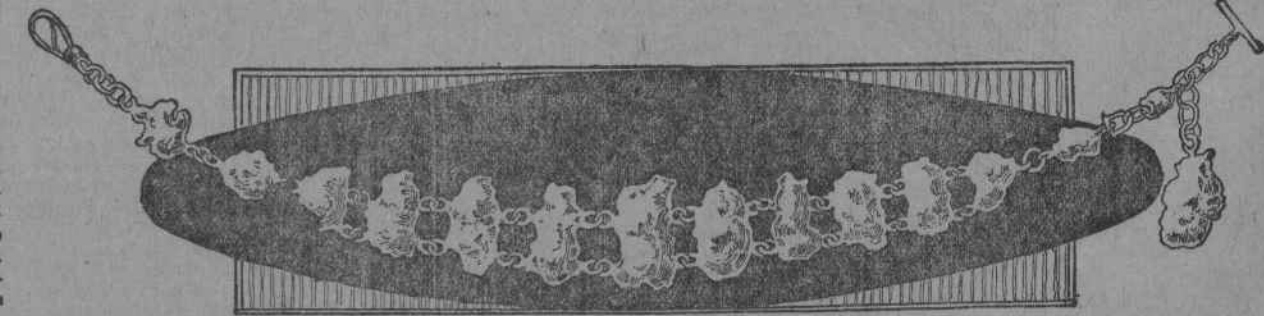
"Widows and elderly women should be married in bonnets."

## A KLONDIKE WATCH CHAIN.

**JOSEPH HOLLAND**, just returned from the Klondike, is a walking placer mine.

His broad and manly person is decorated by a watch chain constructed of nuggets taken from the world-famous gold fields.

Mr. Holland recently placed this unique piece of jewelry on exhibition in the office of the Alaska Commercial Company in San Francisco. At other times it is to be seen adorning Mr. Holland's equator and



The Klondike Watch Chain, Formed Entirely of Nuggets of Gold Linked Together.

after his ordination he was assigned to the church in Felixstowe. The church was desperately poor and deeply in debt. So the fertile brain of Rev. Mr. Ward evolved a brand-new scheme of raising the necessary funds.

Going to London, he hired a hand organ at the rate of \$10 a month. With it he returned to Felixstowe. It was a cheap organ, with reed pipes, somewhat out of tune and with a wooden peg at the bottom as a rest.

Arrayed in the costume of a Church of England curate, Mr. Ward went into the cold, cold world. Stuck to the front of the organ was a sign announcing that the money contributed was for the church.

was out with it five hours this week, but got very little. Besides, it is high time I stopped it; people here don't appreciate my efforts. They think that barrel-organ playing, although performed for the noblest of purposes—the extension of the church—brings ridicule on the cloth. I find clergyman who are here as visitors are the greatest opponents of my operations. They turn up their noses. Anyhow, the experiment is a failure. I am greatly disappointed, and won't repeat it again, especially as an important supporter of the church has written a strong letter to the vicar. Apart from that the work is most trying and unremunerative. I only received one sovereign and two half sovereigns; altogether £10 was subscribed."

you cannot see him without noticing his golden chain. The chain consists of sixteen nuggets, fifteen of them about the same size and one occupying the central position larger than the others. The chain is valued at about \$250 and is a fine advertisement for the Klondike. Nuggets are not supposed to be numerous there and they are just what attracts the imaginative inexperienced crowd to a new gold field. If one could pick up plenty of little nuggets like these, a trip to the Klondike would be both pleasant and profitable. Mr. Holland received the watch chain as a present from a number of prosperous miners to whom he had made himself agreeable.